

VIETNAM COURIER

October 7
1968
No 185
5th Year

Information Weekly — E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

South Viet Nam

* NEW SHELLING OF SAIGON: TARGETS IN ADMINISTRATIVE QUARTERS AND HARBOUR HIT

* P.L.A.F. CONTINUE HAMMERING AT THE ENEMY IN TAY NINH, DUC LAP AND COASTAL PROVIN- CES IN CENTRAL TRUNG BO WHERE A SEVENTH ENEMY BATTALION WAS WIPED OUT

* The P.L.A.F. Invest Thuong Duc,
Southwest of Da Nang.

* 14 Cargo-Boats, Tankers, Patrol-
Boats and Barges Between Saigon
and the Sea and 30 Other Craft
in Ben Tre Province Sunk or Burnt.

North Viet Nam *NR* IN SEPTEMBER 63 U.S. Planes Downed, Many U.S. Pilots Captured

A daily average of 2 American aircraft was downed in September (11 in the first three days of the month), by North Viet Nam gunners, armymen and militiamen.

Quang Binh province topped the list with 12 planes grounded: Vinh Linh area, on the 17th parallel bagged 16 aircraft and Nghe An province 15 in the same month.

On September 11, within two minutes A.A. batteries in Quang Binh brought down two Phantoms. The rural

militia of that province recorded 5 kills, one of which on September 10 by 24 rounds of machine guns. The total of U.S. planes knocked out of the Quang Binh sky by the militia now runs to 97.

With 6 L-19 planes downed in September, Vinh Linh holds the record of spy-planes shot down.

In addition, in the same month the coastal defence of North Viet Nam twice hit war vessels from the Seventh Fleet.

Up to October 2, 1968

3.195 U.S. Aircraft Were Downed

U.S. Distortion of Truth Only Brings Out the Justice of South Viet Nam People's Cause

A Gai Phong Press Agency commentary

OF late, at the official talks in Paris between the representative of the D.R.V.N. Government and that of the U.S. Government and elsewhere the Johnson clique exalted itself to misrepresent the just resistance war of the South Vietnamese people against the U.S. aggression, for national salvation, and heaped cynical slanders on the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. The U.S. ruling circles are continuing their old trick of making white black in an attempt to govern their crime of aggression and deceive the American people and world public opinion. However, the aggressive, stubborn, brutal and perfidious nature of Johnson and company have been made more transparent by their own absurd contentions and stubborn attitude in all the past 23 sessions of the Paris talks and their war intensification in both North and South Viet Nam.

It is common knowledge that since the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists have been pursuing the most

brutal policy of aggression unparalleled in history against the South Vietnamese people by launching first an armed intervention, then a "special war" and now a local war. They have deployed a huge aggressive machine composed of 1,300,000 U.S. puppet and satellite troops in a war on a half of Viet Nam with a 14 million population. They have been using most up-to-date war means including toxic chemicals, poison gas, napalm, phosphorus bombs and B-52 bombers and applying most barbarous methods of terror and massacre to subdue the South Vietnamese people, impose on them the U.S. neo-colonialist rule, turn South Viet Nam into an American colony and military base and prolong the partition of Viet Nam.

To oppose aggression and oppression is a sacred and imprescriptible right of any people. The American people themselves rose up against the British colonialists for independence and freedom. For a people like the Vietnamese who have a long tradition of indomitable struggle against foreign aggression for national salvation and who have never accepted slavery, there is no alternative but to unite and struggle persistently against U.S. aggression to save their country and their homes. The war of resistance which the South Vietnamese people have been conducting against U.S. aggression is precisely the continuation, of the glorious age-old history of the Vietnamese people against foreign aggression that is also the continuation at a higher level and with great consequences, of the Vietnamese people's traditional love for independence and freedom.



P.L.A.F. men in action

(Continued page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Born from the people's high tide of struggle, the South Viet Nam National Front is the only organization enjoying the overwhelming majority of the South Vietnamese people of all classes and ethnic groups, of all nationalities and religious beliefs for a sacred fight against the immediate task and objectives of the South Vietnamese people: to liberate the South people, absolutely defeat the U.S. imperialists' use of the puppet administration, establish a broad national democratic government, and "build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and peaceful reunification of the country" (Political Programme of the National Front).

[illegible]

The people's revolutionary power has been in the making in almost all hamlets and

He hopes that the Thieu-Kieu-Huong clique of traitors can do anything better for their country than the "legality" constitutionalism," representationalism," and the "democratic-democratic clique and the Thieu-Kieu-Huong group. It is certain that the Thieu-Kieu-Huong clique and the traitors and their abettors — the U.S. aggressors — will be overthrown and destroyed by the Vietnamese people.

PARIS TALK'S 24th

THE 24th session of the official D.R.V.N.—U.S. talks took place in Paris, on October 2.

Taking the floor first, U.S. representative A. Harriman

viour, the D.R.V.N. envoy said:

"In fact, it is precisely the U.S. Government which has been flouting all norms of international law with its

bombings and all other acts of war by the U.S. on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. so that other problems of interest to the two sides can be discussed.

Speaking next, D.R.V.N. Minister of State Xuan Tuu produced further proofs to show that the Saigon administration was but a U.S. creation. He also denounced

much smaller country such as Viet Nam, which is thousands of miles away from the United States and which has never done any harm to it."

The Vietnamese chief negotiator laid stress on Vietnamese people's right to respond to armed and political struggle to resist U.S. aggression.

Concerning the allegation made by the U.S. representative at the previous session that the Vietnamese people and the D.R.V.N. Government were challenging international law and the norms of international behav-

their aggression, their setbacks will grow. Their increasing perfidious and deceitful manoeuvres, will only further exasperate popular feeling and shed more light on their nature.

No brutality and obduracy, and no perfidious trick of the Johnson clique can check the sweeping advance of the sacred war of resistance of the South Vietnamese people under the leadership of the N.F.L.

As pointed out by *La Myer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the president of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., at the meeting marking the 23rd anniversary of the South Viet Nam, "so long as the U.S. imperialists refuse to end their war of aggression in Viet Nam, withdraw all the U.S. and its satellite troops from South Viet Nam to let the Vietnamese people settle their internal affairs, we shall continue to fight till final victory."*

That is our army and people's position whose justice is dazzlingly obvious. That is our iron-like resolve. Let it also be a stern warning to the Johnson clique.

SESSION

evidence, direct or indirect by deed or word, of communist willingness to restore the demilitarized zone between North and South Viet Nam! This means that Mr. Humphrey, like Mr. Johnson, still demands 'reciprocity.' Moreover, he even threatened to resume the bombing of North Viet Nam. As regards Mr. Nixon—the warlike presidential candidate of the Republican Party—he was obviously not satisfied with Mr. Humphrey's words, though the latter was only paying lip service to the public."

The Vietnamese representative went on to declare: We repeat once more that we shall not agree to any kind of 'reciprocity'. Whoever will be the next presi-

dent of the United States, he will certainly fail unless he finds a sound solution to the problem on the basis of the respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national

rights. If the United States puts off the unconditional halt of the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. it will be held responsible for the Paris conversations' lack of progress. If the United States is bent on pursuing its war of aggression, it will only sustain heavier defeats. The Vietnamese people as a whole, in the North as well as in the South, are determined, no matter what may be the cost, to wrest back real independence and reunite the country.

Higher and Middle Vocational Education Makes Headway During Anti-U.S. Resistance

The Viet Nam Workers' Party and the D.R.V.N. Government have mapped out many concrete policies in this connection. With a view to meeting the requirements of the resistance to American aggression, for national salvation, and for national reconstruction, present and future, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has outlined an education policy which is a revolution:

"In face of the new situation and the new tasks, not only should the training and fostering of scientific, technical and economic management cadres not be reduced, but it should be strongly developed so as to eventually satisfy the needs in cadres of the whole country."

In implementation of the above-mentioned resolution, higher and vocational education has to fulfil two great tasks: to continue to expand the training and fostering of cadres at a quick and steady tempo; and to continue to raise the quality of the training even while the country is at war.

EXPANDING THE TRAINING OF CADRES

VIENT NAM being a backward

of aggression or unprecedented force, the training of cadres should be on a large scale and at a quick tempo, and one step ahead of the present needs. And by the present, during the past three years, thirteen more universities and universities of science and technology and secondary vocational schools have been opened. At present there are in the North 38 universities and colleges and 38 secondary vocational schools. In the future, students in these schools increased more than twice compared with the 1949-1956 school year, and the number of school and college students and graduates sent to the production areas for further training went up 3.8 times over the same period.

Not only has training been undertaken on an ever extending scale but remarkable achievements have been recorded in realizing an ever better balance between schools of various degrees, between various branches, between theory and practice, and between training at home and abroad. There are now nearly 170 branches of university education. A network

of secondary vocational schools have been set up, from central down to local level. At the centre, there are groups of technical and professional schools; regional establishments include teachers' training schools, medical, engineering and agricultural schools. . . .

Party's educational principles and rules: education should serve the political tasks, and be closely coordinated with production; theory and practice should go hand in hand; study should go together with work; school education should be combined with social education.

In the 1966-1967 academic year, the Polytechnic College sent over one hundred student groups for "work and study" in 128 enterprises and construction sites in 20 provinces. The Agricultural College sent its 4th-year students to agricultural co-operatives where they carried on their studies while giving guidance to the farmers in production work. The Civil Engineering College sent the whole Building department to construction sites where the students applied the theories learnt to practical work.

The great significance and effect of this mode of training has been borne out by facts: the overall quality of the training has been visibly improved; the teachers, tempered by discipline and combat, have seen the quality of their teaching and research work raised. It is also thanks to the same method that a close combination has been achieved between training, production and scientific research establishments in fostering cadres who are both politically staunch and professionally proficient and who can meet the expectations of the departments employing them.

While carrying into effect the educational principles and rules, the most important measure is to give pride of place to political and ideological education, using it as a lever to push other work forward and as a basis for raising the quality of professional training.

In order to fulfil this task, the following things have been done: to raise the quality of political teaching in the schools; to give students and teachers opportunities to acquaint themselves with the realities of combat and production; to join in political movements in society at large; to improve the content of the activities of mass organizations within the schools; to give talks on scientific or topical subjects in the school clubs; to promote collective emulation, etc.

A stirring atmosphere has thus been created in study and teaching which has made it possible over the past three years to improve hundreds of programmes and curricula in accordance with the motto: *fundamental, Vietnamese, and modern*.

In face of difficulties born of war time conditions, teachers and students have developed their spirit of self-reliance and built laboratories and designed models, in keeping with the evacuation and dispersion of their establishments. The teachers have

the students. The latter have shown the greatest courage and a keen desire to serve the revolution to the utmost of their capacities. Teachers and students feel mutual affection for one another, so much so that relations between them take on a comradely and fraternal character, which reflects the consolidation and perfection of the new production relations in society. This is an important factor in bettering the quality of school training.

2. Another factor which has a bearing on the quality of study and teaching over the past years has been the progress achieved in scientific research in colleges and universities. Scientific research has been considered one of the bases for cadre training. Each school serves production, combat and life in accordance

with conditions prevailing there. Over the past few years, scientific research has stuck to the targets of economic development, actively served production, combat and life, while making preparations to serve long-range objectives. The management of scientific research work has also been improved: 70% of the subjects of research deal with themes related to production, combat and life. Some have achieved good results: "Railway signal system", "The electrical network in Viet Nam", "Continuous carrying of cast iron pipes", "Intensive rice cultivation in Thai Binh province", "How high rice output is achieved in conditions of intensive cultivation", "Labour in rural areas in the new situation"...

3. Another factor of great importance for the quality of all-sided training is the organization of the school. The decisive element is to build a strong Party organization to ensure all-sided and all-round leadership by the school's Party committee as regards all school work. The role of mass organizations as the trade-union and the Labour Youth should be promoted. Constant attention has been paid to the mobilization of all forces within the school with a view to organizing life and participating in the management of all school activities.

THE coming to maturity of higher and secondary vocational education over the past years is due to the resolve shown by cadres, teachers and students in carrying into effect, in a creative manner and with great success, the line and policies of the Viet Nam Workers' Party concerning the training and fostering of scientific, technical and economic management cadres. The school has thus actively contributed to supplying the revolution with cadres for all-sided building and development: agriculture, industry, culture, education, financial defence.

by TA QUANG BUU
Higher and Middle Vocational Education

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD AT LARGE

"The peoples of our two countries are bound by time-honored relations of friendship. The revolutionary struggles of the peoples of our two countries against imperialism and for socialism have continually strengthened and developed these relations on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

"In their past resistance against the French colonialists as well as in the present resistance against socialism in North Viet Nam and resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, the Vietnamese people have always received support and great and uniform assistance of the Chinese people. We take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to the Communist Party of China, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the fraternal Chinese people for their vigorous support and valuable assistance.

"In the interests of the peoples of our two countries and the revolutionary cause of the people throughout the world, the Vietnamese people, the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the National Assembly and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam are determined to make all-out efforts to consolidate and further strengthen the fraternal friendship and militant solidarity between our two peoples and China.

"May the fraternal friendship and militant solidarity between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples last for ever."

(Excerpts from the message sent by President Ho Chi Minh, National Assembly Standing Committee Chairman, Tran Chinh and the P.R.V.N. Premier Phan Van Dong to C.P.C. Central Committee Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Viet Chairman Lin Biao and C.P.R. Premier Chou En-Lai.)

People's China's National Day Observed in Hanoi

A grand meeting was held on September 30 in Hanoi to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. It was jointly sponsored by the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the National Assembly and the D.R.V.N. Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

Representatives of the Hanoi population, public bodies and mass organizations attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Ton Quang Phiet, Secretary General of the National Committee of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the Viet Nam - China Friendship

Association, highlighted the tremendous significance of the founding of the Chinese People's Republic for the history of the Chinese revolution, the struggle and the world's forces of socialism, national independence, democracy and peace.

Ton Quang Phiet warmly praised the brilliant achievement of the Chinese people in rapidly turning China into a powerful socialist country endowed with a modern agriculture, industry, national defense, science and technology. China has successfully produced atomic and hydrogen weapons as well as the means of nuclear delivery.

He laid stress on the important international role of the People's Republic of China, a close friend of the oppressed peoples who has constantly been supporting and assisting them in their fight against imperialism headed by the U.S. for peace national independence, democracy and socialism.

The Vietnamese people unreservedly support the new people's determination to liberate Taiwan and strongly condemn the schemes and war provocations of the U.S. imperialists against the P.R.C. Ton Quang Phiet added:

"After voicing the Vietnamese people's clasp to the

great victories recorded by the Chinese people under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party around the history of the Chinese revolution, the struggle and the world's forces of socialism, national independence, democracy and peace.

"On September 28, a meeting was held in Hanoi by workers of three Chinese factories: the Soap, Rubber Goods and Cigarettes factories. Speaking on the occasion, Nguyen Si, member of the Managing Board of 'Sao Vang' (Gold Star) Rubber Factory, expressed deep gratitude to the Communist Party, Government, working class and people of China for their strong support and great assistance to the Vietnamese people in their struggle against U.S. aggression."

"Many talks were given in Hanoi on the successes scored by China in the economic, scientific and technical fields;

"An exhibition on the People's Republic of China opened here under the auspices of the D.R.V.N. Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. Chinese films were shown on Hanoi screens.

IN THE UNITED STATES NEW ANTI-U.S. VIET NAM WAR PROTESTS

FOREIGN sources said that over 15,000 people in Chicago had staged on September 28 a spirited demonstration against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and repression of the police against demonstrators at the end of August last during the national convention of the Democratic Party.

Among the demonstrators were many women who were pushing prams while displaying posters demanding the cessation of U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and condemning the fascist acts

of the Johnson administration. The marchers stopped in front of Hilton Hotel—where a month ago clashes had taken place between the demonstrators and the police—and shouted "Daley, go out!" (Daley, Mayor of Chicago). "We'll not fight in this war of Johnson!" "We do not like a fascist state."

Over one thousand policemen tried to disperse the demonstration but failed in face of the firmness of the demonstrators.

CULTURE IN A SAD PLIGHT IN SOUTH VIET NAM ENEMY OCCUPIED AREAS

PARALLEL to the intensification of their war of aggression, the American imperialists and their valets are disseminating a false, enslaving culture in areas still under their occupation in South Viet Nam.

In its issue of August 12, 1968, *Chinh Luu*, a reactionary paper in Saigon, carried an article entitled "The cultural tragedy in South Viet Nam" in which some complaint was voiced about the deplorable condition of culture under the U.S.-puppet regime.

Meanwhile, the only productions coming out of South Viet Nam are paragonable to the "hoisting about our 400-year old culture" but "never seeking to understand it" and "never lifting a finger to do something about it," while "the North has been making such tremendous efforts in the cultural field that we (the puppet-Ed.) have good reasons to feel awed."

The article continued: "It is an open secret that the North has been very active in the cultural field ever since 1954. An explicit policy has been worked out and research is abundant. State sponsors and supplies abundant means for the building of national culture. (...) A Ministry of Culture has been functioning since these years and has had at its disposal important resources for cultural construction. Writers and artists are grouped together according to their lines and research associations have been founded (for instance the Association for Historical and Geographic Research) which work out plans and exert themselves without let-up to complete important works."

"The language and script has been standardized. This standardization, which goes back a dozen years, is a good basis for cultural development according to a pre-charted course."

"History and geography are the objects of careful studies. North Viet Nam's researchers have been scouring China for historical vestiges related to Viet Nam. At the same time they have been after literary relics. For instance: documents related to Nguyen Du's trips in China."

"In the literary field, North Vietnamese scholars have elaborated new glossaries of classical works. All authors familiar to South Vietnamese students have been carefully re-studied in the North."

"North Vietnam's cultural workers have also been carrying out extensive archaeological investigations."

They have not neglected the dissemination of their works abroad. Recently, South Viet Nam journalists and politicians stopping over in Hong Kong could visit a bookshop selling North Vietnamese publications. They were amazed by the cultural wealth of North Viet Nam when seeing that the materials covered all fields, including literature, history and geography.

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"Indeed, the South just ignores the cultural problem. Nobody cares, nobody pays the least attention; the cultural efforts of South Viet Nam can build down to a few educational activities. A few school textbooks full of errors and contradictions, mere compilations from which all attempt at research is absent."

"Private individuals in small and poor countries never have enough facilities to engage in large-scale cultural work. What about the governments? Alas, the governments which have succeeded each other in Saigon have never cared about culture."

"Nobody could hope that the South would one day begin research on the history of our civilization, geography, culture so as to put an end to the confusion now prevailing in school documents and textbooks. The Committee for the Standardization of Language and Script has not even been able to publish a book because it is thought that genes are enough for national survival, and that estrangement from national traditions is of no importance. When we moved south (following the Geneva Agreements of 1954-Ed.) it took us a great deal of time to dig out our ancient and precious cultural documents and relics. We had thought a broad and deep research on the past would start on the strength of those documents. Alas, those precious things just lay forlorn for the past ten years and now gradually being absorbed by humidity and insects. The South has never had any thing like a cultural foundation."

"For want of an orientation which might serve as a basis, one sees journalists and writers bring forth stories and novels stuffed with foolish anachronisms, if not pornographic episodes that make your hair stand on end, playwrights plagiarize worthless foreign works, poets who never think of either society or nation—by all means seemingly trying to harm the national struggle."

"In such a state of things, in which all is severed from national tradition, a new form of activity has come into being: selling American culture. But propaganda for American culture is not in content: books and magazines are beautifully printed, but the readers' intellectuals included, just cast a perfunctory glance at them and never could muster enough courage to go into the pages filled with thick print, carrying lengthy and obscure literal translations."

On the night of September 28, the enemy at Suoi Trang town was harassed: 2 "pacification" teams were wiped out, 2 puppet companies decimated, many aircraft destroyed in an airfield whose runway was put out of order.

In the Western High Plateau, fighting continued at

Military Operations

(Continued from page 8)

In Ban Tre province, 3 American brigades and 4 puppet battalions were routed. Between September 12 and 15, the enemy lost 1,600 men (1,300 G.I.s killed, wounded or captured, 24 ships sunk or burnt and 5 aircraft downed). On September 14 and 25, the P.L.A.F. in that province sank or burnt 6 other ships (one over 100 metres long) and destroyed six 105 mm guns.

In My Tho province, 3 battalions of puppet Division 7 were routed in Cho Gao district on September 19; 200 men put out of action. The following day, 200 G.I.s were wiped out in a violent artillery onslaught of Binh Duc base, 6 km west of My Tho.

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Duc Lap (210 km northeast of Saigon) where between September 23 and 30 the Americans had 4 companies and 1 platoon put out of action. On September 23 alone, a P.L.A.F. unit fought off 11 enemy counter-attacks, wiping out an American company, causing 100 American casualties and capturing a great quantity of weapons. In September, in the six provinces in the Western High Plateau, the patriotic forces have put out of action over 3,000 enemy soldiers including nearly 2,000 G.I.s, wiped out 3 battalions and 17 companies, destroyed, downed or damaged 5 aircraft and 207 military vehicles.

Finally, near the 17th parallel north of Quang Tri province, between September 1 and 25, the enemy lost 3,350 men put out of action, the planes 1,000 G.I.s, 30 planes including 11 jets downed, 63 tanks and armoured cars and two dozen cannons destroyed or damaged.

More Puppet Troops and G.I.s' Rebellions and Mutinies in South Viet Nam

BESIDES the 40 mutinies and rebellions already reported in the puppet army from May to August (see Viet Nam Courier No. 153) there have taken place since the end of August, some of them with alarming gravity for the U.S. Command, *Giai Phong Press* Agency reported.

"Thus, on August 31 last when puppet Ranger Battalion 30 stationed in Da Nang came into contact with the P.L.A.F., a group of its soldiers mutinied on the very battlefield and crossed over to the side of the patriots after turning their weapons against the traitors, destroying 3 M.113 armoured cars and killing and wounding 34 enemy troops."

On August 26, at Vinh Long, in the Mekong delta, 3 companies of puppet regional troops refused to go and rescue their troops to pieces at My Loc village.

On August 28, the same source reported, in a locality 36 km northwest of Saigon, 200 men and 4 puppet battalions garrisoned at Duc Lap, near Huai Nhai province, refused to march on Tan My village despite repeated orders from American "advisors". The

battalion deputy commander shot himself in front of his men, instead of going away to the Yankee masters (see Viet Nam Courier No. 153) there have taken place since the end of August, some of them with alarming gravity for the U.S. Command, *Giai Phong Press* Agency reported.

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vain efforts, the U.S. command could collect only 4 platoons, or less than 50 per cent of the battalion strength. The anti U.S. war movement continued to spread in the puppet army to such a point that in its issue of September 28, the *New York Times* admitted that despite harsh disciplinary measures, the number of deserters in the Viet Nam army has continued to grow.

Neither were U.S. units spared by the movement. *Giai Phong Press* Agency reported that in August last, at least 300 G.I.s at Binh Duc base, 8 km west of My Tho, protested against the U.S. armed aggression in Viet Nam, approved the N.F.L. political programme and agreed to turn part in "sweeps."

On September 17, 6 G.I.s, flung into a rivercraft, refused to jump into the river near My Tho. They obeyed their fascist officers' orders. On September 22, an operation called at night and puppet My Tho had to be called off owing to the refusal of the American garrison at Cai Lay, to take up arms and desert, according to the command's plan.

News from LAOS NEW VICTORIES IN CURRENT MONSOON IN LAOS

FOLLOWING up their big victories in the last dry season, the Lao patriotic armed forces in the first three months of the current monsoon beginning last June, beat back almost all nibbling attacks by the enemy and won new and big victories, *Khaosen Pakti* Law reported.

According to still incomplete statistics, the patriotic armed forces in the period under review, wiped out 1,557 enemy troops including 1,107 killed (among them 4 U.S. "advisors"), 343 wounded, 190 captured and 185 who surrendered.

The Lao patriotic armed forces seized 50 weapons of various kinds including 36 mortars, recoilless rifles, 40 machineguns, 40 radio transmitters and other war supplies.

They also shot down 23 U.S. warplanes and destroyed 3 military vehicles.

The Lao Ngam district capital and scores of villages were then reintegrated into the free zone.

At the same time, they raised the bombing level, smothered bandits and commandos into the free zone for sabotage, conducted "sweeps" to massacre criminals, forcibly draft young men into the puppet army and "pacify" the areas under their control.

In fighting off the enemy military units on the Sot, Houaihuan and Nampha areas in July and August, the patriotic armed forces in Sam Neua province knocked out nearly 300 enemy troops in a surprise onset on a base of bandits at Luangha on the night of July 26, they wiped out 74 of them. On the night of August 30, they killed or wounded nearly 80 men of the 19th battalion in Phoukhan area (Luang Prabang province). In Phoukhan area the enemy lost nearly 40 men in a nibbling operation in a mid-August.

The stepping-up of guerrilla warfare was another feature of the period under review. In Phoukhan province, the people's regional guerrilla units wiped out 300 bandits in these months, in defense of the liberated zone. Guerrillas in Houa Ngai district, Sayaboury province, in July, rendered the enemy with a surprise attack on a base of troops under the leadership of the people's regional guerrilla units, killing over 100 enemy soldiers. In Vientiane province, guerrillas in the patriotic armed forces are emulating one another in recording more brilliant victories.

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

Military Operations

DURING last week, the P.L.A.F. continued to attack the enemy in many theatres of operations. *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported. On September 20, Saigon was again pounded by P.L.A.F. artillery. On September 26, 27, and 28 the patriots attacked at least 10 enemy targets including 3 posts in Tay Ninh province which sustained the "most violent bombardment in the war" (5,000 shells according to Western agencies), and a coup de main was mounted on the U.S. vehicle park in Cholon, Saigon twin city.

The P.L.A.F. were very active in Thuong Duc region, 10 km southwest of Da Nang, where many posts were over-run and a big enemy's force intercepted. The coastal provinces of Central Trung Bo remained the site of fierce fighting where a puppet battalion was wiped out near Qui Nhon.

In the Mekong delta, Ben Tre province distinguished itself again with the destruction of 6 U.S. war vessels on September 24 and 25.

SAIGON AREA:

— The city was newly bombed on September 29.
— 10 ships and 4 barges (including 12,000-ton ships) sunk or damaged southeast of Saigon.

— Three important enemy posts in Tay Ninh province heavily plastered by P.L.A.F. artillery.

On September 20, many shells fired by the P.L.A.F. hit various targets in Saigon. *Giai Phong Press Agency* said: in the district of Thieu's residence and the puppet National Assembly building and the harbour of the old district.

trict where many storehouses were hit. The previous day in a district of Cholon, a self-defence unit had stormed a military vehicle park and destroyed three convoys of American supplies revealed.

Besides between Saigon and the sea, in the network of waterways formed by the Dong Nai, the Dong Trach and Long Tan, 10 ships and 4 barges, including a tanker and a cargo-barge of 10,000 tons each, were damaged or sunk 17-30 kilometres southwest of the city within 10 days beginning September 2.

Northwest of Saigon, in Tay Ninh province, the P.L.A.F. on September 26 struck at three enemy posts including Ca Tam (10 km from Saigon, Western agencies

reported that 2,000 shells had been shelled in these targets, making this the "most violent bombardment in the war". The previous day, near Ca Tam, the patriots had wiped out a Ranger Company and a signal platoon. Another American company was also wiped out on September 22 in an ambush 10 km northeast of Tay Ninh, on the road to Ca Tam.

Thus within the last six weeks, Tay Ninh remained the most disastrous battlefield for the Yankees who lost a daily average of 400 men, about 40 vehicles, 4 cannons or mortars and 2 planes or helicopters.

CENTRAL TRUNG BO:

Vain efforts of the enemy to gain Thuong Duc, southwest of Da Nang, invested by the P.L.A.F. since September 28, 1968.

— A puppet battalion wiped out in Qui Nhon region.

GIAI PHONG Press Agency reported that on September 28, the P.L.A.F. had destroyed many enemy posts at Thuong Duc

a district capital and a sub-sector. Ca Tam, commanding an important valley area southwest of Da Nang. After a 5 minutes' engagement, two convoys led by the hands of the patriotic forces, followed a few hours later by another post. Meanwhile, the airfield came under fire and the urban centre was stormed by patriotic infantrymen.

All enemy counter-attacks were repelled, some after fierce hand-to-hand fights. The following days, despite massive intervention of aircraft (B-57s, fighter-bombers and armed helicopters) the P.L.A.F. harassed enemy positions day and night, while the villages in the periphery of the town were under the people's control. On October 1, a U.S. marine battalion of 500 men was wiped out by Saigon to try and clear the place was besieged and decimated and forced to call for help. The battle is still raging in this sector.

Near Tam Ky provincial capital, an American armored company was intercepted on September 24: 4 tanks were destroyed, many others damaged, and a choppers downed. The same day, near Thien Phuoc 23 km south southwest of Tam Ky, 6 tanks were destroyed and about one hundred enemy soldiers put out of action. Six kilometres northwest of Chu Lai base, on the night of September 28, the P.L.A.F. wiped out an American artillery company and destroyed 8 105 mm and 155 mm cannons.

In An Dinh, 10 km southwest of Quang Ngai town, the patriotic forces completely wrote off the muster-roll on September 26 a puppet company and seized all its arms and ammunition.

Near Qui Nhon, capital of Binh Dinh province, in the engagement unfolding on September 22, 23 and 24 southwest of Phu My, the enemy lost a battalion, a battalion 4, Regiment 3, puppet Division 20 and 350 men including the Battalion commander. It was the seventh battalion of the enemy wiped out within a month in Central Trung Bo which killed, wounded or captured 15,000 adverse troops, put out of action 6 enemy battalions, and decimated a regiment, a multi-battalion unit and 9 battalions. Meanwhile the patriotic forces destroyed, damaged or downed 12 planes and helicopters and 400 vehicles including 170 armoured cars. They destroyed 248 camps in which civilians were concentrated and liberated 118,000 people.

OTHER THEATRES OF OPERATIONS:

— 30 ships sunk or burnt in Ben Tre province (Mekong delta).

— In Duc Lac sector: 4 American companies wiped out or decimated in the last week of September.

— North of Quang Tri province, 3,800 enemy troops put out of action in 25 days.

FROM September 14 to 19, a wave of generalized attacks was launched by the P.L.A.F. on the 7 provinces in the Mekong delta in which the enemy had 2,000 men put out of action (nearly 1,000 G.I.s), 21 ships burnt or sunk and 3 aircraft downed or destroyed. (*Giai Phong Press Agency* reported).

(Continued page 7)

IN A HAMLET CLOSE TO SAIGON

STANDING on the bank of the Van Co River, I could see rivers flowing in the sky over Saigon, Hiep Hoa, Han Nghia, Duc Hoa, Ben Luc, Yen An and other places. Projectiles of all calibres were using hauled by our troops on American boats. On the ground, although the season had not come yet for the dry stubble to be burned, the glow of big bonfires was lighting the river. The light made it possible for me to recognize Ap, a small hamlet in Long An province, and there in people's innocent joy.

"At dusk the noise had begun: bamboo toasting, tin cans, empty napalm containers... resounded over the vast sugar cane fields, mingled with the hubbub of people calling, running, and shouting through megaphones. If a man could stand still and listen to the megaphones, he would be able to get an idea of the battle going on in the Gieng and the brilliant revolutionary atmosphere prevailing there. An enemy military post stood less than half a kilometre away; yet the megaphones went right on urging the people to the places where bonfires were tearing off to shreds the darkness under highways 8 and 10. There, since nightfall, the people of Ap Gieng moved on to burn balls of cooked rice, bamboo baskets, pichs and shovels, dynamite charges, and bomb duds, had set to destroy enemy communications. Each bonfire marked a stretch of road being cut to pieces. At dusk, a few rifle shots had been heard, but this did not last very long. A megaphone recounted what had happened: the sounds had been fired by a platoon of puppet soldiers headed by a man named Nhat. Nhat's wife was a puppet road destroyer. Without a word, she stepped out, came right up to Nhat and stood defiantly with arms akimbo, firing her husband's gun muzzle. Nhat eventually gave way, and soon another bonfire was lit.

Walking along the road I remembered that I had been put up by the Ap Gieng people in 1958 to protect their sugar cane fields against enemy destruction. Now or then, the fields stretched out in immense expanses, dotted with small trees. Through the cuts made in the banks of the canals, flower water from the Van Co River. There I saw flicking hermit lights, and heard the noise of machetes working on hard wood. Some people were working, apparently old folks. Cowardly, I saw white goats and wrinkled foreigners, and the old folks moved on to burn. Elderly men and women were building bridges across canals

and cuts in the roads, for their "sons" in the Liberation Army to move more quickly in the direction of Saigon. Spreading rice husks on the mud to make the paths less slippery and throwing bridges across road gaps and canals, such was the kind of job devoted upon the "whitewashed army". Old people were crowding in to volunteer for revolutionary jobs, and so on "refugees" had to be set up to distribute tasks. An elderly woman who was flourishing in the water trying to put up a pillar for a bridge said to another, "It took me a great deal of talking to convince you, the Front secretary, that I am perfectly fit for work. Ah, how lucky the young people are! They don't have to go for assignments! They are given tasks and plenty of opportunities to fight the Yanks!"

That night, before the attack on enemy army of Han Nghia, I took a stroll along the canals, crossed the newly-built bridges, heading in the direction of Saigon. The flares in the sky over the city had become even denser. Enemy artillery was firing on the district of Saigon. Three hundred shells fell on the territory of Ap Gieng: its "share of fate". But there were less and less crowds of people in the fields. Amidst the roar of the guns,

people were arguing impatiently. About a hundred had volunteered to join the reinforcements for Saigon, but were asked to go. A group of 200 had been ordered for Ap Gieng and Duc Hoa people wishing to enlist in the district armed forces, but this was far from enough. When the first group was jumped for joy, but others loudly protested that they were every bit as good. The military code of Ap Gieng (talked himself) hoarse calling on people to "be reasonable, fair-minded, and display class interest." Every word was vigorous approval, but this didn't stop the disputes and swiftness over who should get the guns first...

While among the first to be issued a rifle, for her husband had recently been killed by the enemy. Uncle Ton said she had made a mortar of a 82-mm mortar core, for an enemy shell from Han Nghia had knocked down his cattle and Uncle Ton had been killed. He yielded his submachinegun to Sister Lam, for his wife had

just given birth to a child and he had to stay home to look after her. The patch of field where the weapons were being distributed was like a boiling pot, where everything was in effervescence. People came and went, talked, discussed. Men who had just been killed, were talking about, humming a folk-song, then abruptly switching to a march. Others boasted about a bumper crop of berry formation of sugar cane, or talked about the high price he had got for his poultry at the market.

But now the sound of gunfire had burst all around. The people of Ap Gieng, whether belonging to a military formation or not, stood ready for combat. Flares were drifting over Saigon, highways 8 and 10, Han Hoa, Han Nghia. On the ground, the flames of the people's struggle were consuming the enemy. The sound of drums and toasting was calling on the people of Ap Gieng to surge up and join the heroic cause which was sweeping the aggressors away...